

# MINUTES

WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

7:15 PM – OPEN SESSION

Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center  
Multimedia Room 303

Called to Order by Chairman Marc Dubois

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	Marc Dubois, Chairman	Present
	Michelle Williams, Vice Chairwoman	Present
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Linda Majewski	Present

## PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- **Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Ave., WTG President:** Thanked Peter Fontaine again for working with the WTG regarding the mold issues. The company that tested the buildings found nothing wrong, but the staff is still concerned. Mr. Fontaine has agreed to have Mr. Carbone come down to talk to the staff to alleviate some of their fears.
- **Marlene Smith, former 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at WMS, presently at the WHS:** She was recently called for jury duty for the first time in her life. During that time, her thoughts turned to Jennifer Rivera and her bravery. Smith would like to continue the Jennifer Rivera Awards at the WMS even though she has been transferred to the WHS. "I have nothing to do with the choices made. The students make the recommendations. It can be handled through interoffice mail." She also asked that the awards for WMS Students of the Quarter and the Jennifer Rivera Awards be held at separate meetings to alleviate the overcrowding situation that occurred last year. Mr. Dubois said he was glad that she wants to continue overseeing these awards even though she is no longer at that school.

## RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera extended congratulations to Jennifer Miele for her continued excellence with the performing arts students. She reported that a farewell banquet was held in honor of Mike Kane, WHS Football Coach, who will be leaving that position. She congratulated the WHS basketball coaches and players for an undefeated season so far.

Motion to receive and place on file: E. Nadeau 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Open & Closed Sessions of 1/9/08

Motion to approve: M. Williams 2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

## CONSENT AGENDA:

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda with the following exceptions: M. Williams**

- **Personnel Appointments:** *Certified Apptmts. by L. Majewski*  
*Grist was removed from Asst. Baseball Coach appointment due to withdrawal.*
- **Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000:** *Amazon.com, Mary Silva, Sciacca & Piccirilli, Vortex – Removed by L. Majewski*
- **Field Trip Requests:** *Removed by L. Majewski*

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

## 1. Personnel Actions

*Certified Appointments: Ping-Nor Lau removed by L. Majewski*

*Non-Certified Appointments*

## 2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

*Amazon.com/Educational Supplies/WHS/Local – Removed by L. Majewski*

*Doreen Corrente/Consultant/WACTC/Perkins Grant*

*Epson, America, Inc./Equipment/Bernon, Savoie, WHS/Local*

*Follett Library Resources/Library Books/District/Get Ready Library Grant*

*Graphic Expressions/Sweatshirts/Globe Park/Feinstein Foundation Grant*

HUB Technical Services/WACTC/Perkins/BHS  
Laidlaw Transit/Field Trip Transportation/Cumberland High School/Perkins Grant  
**Mary Silva, CAGS/Psychological Evaluation Services/Special Education/Local--Removed by L. Majewski**  
New England Mechanical/Heater Repairs/Facilities/Local  
RICSL/Professional Development/Grants & Assessments/Local  
**Sciacca & Piccirilli/Legal Services Rendered/Special Education/Local--Removed by L. Majewski**  
**Vortex, Inc./Professional Services/Facilities/Local--Removed by L. Majewski**  
Warwick Public Schools/Regional Curriculum Reform/WACTC/Perkins Grant

3. **Field Trip/Conference Requests**  
**Woonsocket Debate Team, Newark, NJ/WHS/Grant/Fundraiser--Removed by L. Majewski**  
**NAEA National Conference, New Orleans, LA/Mt. St. Charles/Title II--Removed by L. Majewski**

## END OF CONSENT AGENDA

### EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) **Certified Personnel Appointments: Ping-Nor Anna Lau, Math Teacher at WHS through the end of the school year.** Majewski asked if this was a new position, and she was told it was for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Mrs. Goodman told her it was due to enrollment increases. Mrs. Nadeau questioned the hiring of a teacher at Step 5 with the budget the way it is. Dr. Macera said that we are having a very difficult time finding anyone. We also can negotiate with the individual, but we never hire at top step.

**Coaching positions:** Majewski said she thought they were stipend positions, and asked why it was listed as 5.25% of Bachelors. Dr. Macera explained that they are paid per the union contract. She also noted that Mr. Grist withdrew his name for appointment as Asst. Baseball Coach.

- 2) **Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000:**

• **Amazon.com - \$5,747.65**

Majewski asked what was being purchased online. She was told that professional development books were being purchased. The WED has an account, but employees cannot purchase online on their own.

• **Mary Silva, CAGS - \$8,000.00**

Majewski asked what this expenditure was for. Mrs. Goodman explained that it is for psychological services being provided in languages other than English and is an estimated amount.

• **Sciacca & Piccirilli - \$3,525.00**

Mrs. Majewski was told that this expense is for special education litigation that our own attorney had to recuse himself from because there's a conflict of interest.

• **Vortex, Inc. - \$2,470.00**

Majewski asked for more info on this expenditure. It was for indoor air quality/mold surveys that were done at Globe Park and Bernon Heights.

- 3) **Field Trip Requests:**

• **Woonsocket Debate Team, Newark, NJ**

Majewski noted that no substitute was identified as well as where they would be staying. Dr. Macera will get that information for her. Mr. Dubois noted that a lot of Woonsocket's sports programs get good coverage by the media, but we don't see any coverage about the Debate Team. He wished them well.

• **NAEA National Conference, New Orleans, LA - Mt. St. Charles, Title II**

Majewski asked how many of our teachers are going to this conference, since we are paying for Mt. St. Charles teachers to attend. She wondered if we are able to offer this same opportunity to our teachers. Dr. Macera told her that we are, but our teachers don't feel it's something they want to attend.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: M. Williams**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mrs. Majewski gave an update on the PAC Committee, announcing that they will be sponsoring a workshop on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1) Approval of Movie Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Passage – L. Majewski**

Dr. Macera noted that the principals have received this policy very well and she recommended approval.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau  
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes.

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**5) Approval of Formation of After School Robotics & New Technology Student Club @ WHS – B. Starring (This item was taken out of order by unanimous consent.)**

Beth Starring and some of her students gave a demonstration of robots and a PowerPoint presentation describing the Technology Student Association and why they want permission to start their own chapter.

Motion to approve: M. Dubois  
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes.

2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau/A. Forcier

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**1) Superintendent Announcement – Dr. Macera**

Dr. Macera announced her retirement at the end of her contract in July of 2008. She read her memorandum to the WSC.

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**2) Design of Superintendent Search – Dr. Macera**

Dr. Macera read her memorandum to the WSC with her recommendations for the design of the search committee. Mr. Dubois said he was leaving it up to Ms. Williams and Mrs. Nadeau to handle the formation of the search committee because they are on the Personnel Subcommittee. "The whole WSC will be involved, however. No more than two WSC members can be in a room discussing school business at the same time because that constitutes a quorum," said Dubois. Mrs. Majewski can be a substitute on the committee if one of them can't be there.

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**3) Update on Northern RI Collaborative Audit - - D. Macera**

Dr. Macera gave an update on the audit of the Northern RI Collaborative. They serve 11 districts and the audit was done to determine how they were able to accumulate a surplus of \$7,350,502. Mrs. Nadeau asked who they report to. Dr. Macera said that the General Assembly oversees the Collaborative. She has contacted some members of the General Assembly to see if they can look into these findings.

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**4) Discussion of FY09 DRAFT Personnel Supplement -- M. Goodman**

Dr. Macera read her memo, which indicated that the WSC received three budgetary proposals—one at 4%, one at 2.3%, and one at 0% increase. Mrs. Nadeau didn't know how they could discuss this issue without going to the unions to see about renegotiating. She asked if it has been determined how many people will be laid off at this point. Dr. Macera was not certain, but indicated that she is even looking at a 4-day workweek with extended school hours for some positions. She is going to look at every option short of cutting programs. She does know that there will be major lay-offs. She may even look at increasing the mileage limits to save on bussing. Mr. Dubois applauded the unions for showing a good faith effort by being willing to come back to the table.

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**CONFERENCES:** Mrs. Majewski asked if the portfolios for the juniors and seniors have been reviewed for this year. She would like a report on this. Dr. Macera said that the PBGR requirements won't be fully in place until June of 2010. The portfolios won't be a requirement until that time. Majewski would like to know what is going on with the special needs student portfolios. Dr. Macera told her that the state hasn't finalized an alternative assessment for those students yet.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera -- None was given.**

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:**

**Forcier:** Attended a meeting about the middle schools last night and thanked parents, community members, and the Building Committee members for attending. She also thanked the City Council members who voted to go forward with the WMS project. Thanked Joel Matthews for everything he has done. Suggested allowing Dr. Macera to guide the superintendent's search committee in finding her replacements and asked the other WSC members for their feelings about this.

**Nadeau:** She and Ms. Williams have to get going on scheduling a legislative meeting. She doesn't object to having Dr. Macera on the search committee. "It's a long process." She went to Globe Park to read to the students and had a great time reading to kindergarten students.

**Williams:** Suggested a Saturday for the legislative meeting, such as February 9<sup>th</sup>. She would like to schedule a Minority Concerns meeting for March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dubois approved that. Thanked Dr. Macera for her hard work with the NRI Collaborative. She agrees that Dr. Macera should be part of the superintendent's search and that the committee should consist of a cross-section of people.

**Dubois:** He also participated at Globe Park on the Community Reading Day and read a book.

**Majewski:** Thanked Dr. Macera for her hard work for the district. Thinks that Dr. Macera would be a great resource to the search committee. Asked if they could have a brief job description for the position. Asked if Mrs. Goodman could give them some idea of the cost for advertising for this position. She agrees that the search committee should be a cross-section of people from the community, parents, etc. Suggested not having all 16 people go through all the resumes because they are likely to be lengthy. Congratulated the boys' basketball team and girls' team that is playing in Seekonk tonight. Wished the robotics students good luck in their endeavors.

Motion to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.: A. Forcier

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary